

widespread public corruption in Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4300. An act to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 8, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1266. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3672. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3673. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3674. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation" (RIN1651-AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-144. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts extending its support to the temporary protected status program and urging the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program and support immigrant and refugees escaping war, natural disasters, and crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, the Commonwealth has a long and proud history of being a state that supports, values and respects its immigrants and refugees escaping war and natural disasters; and

Whereas, Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is an immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot be safely returned to their home countries; and

Whereas, the Department of Homeland Security will consider whether to extend designations of TPS for all nationals that currently hold TPS including more than 300,000 Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan and Haitian immigrants; and

Whereas, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Homeland Security will consider whether to extend the designation for 12,526 residents living with TPS; and

Whereas, it is estimated that ending TPS for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers approximately \$3.1 billion dollars; and

Whereas, that the Commonwealth recognizes the overwhelmingly positive contributions of TPS holders and their families to the economy, social fabric, diversity and well-being of our community; now therefore be it

Resolved, The Massachusetts General Court hereby extends its support to the Temporary Protected Status program and memorializes the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program and support immigrant and refugees escaping war, natural disasters and crime; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 875. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs (Rept. No. 115-192).

S. 1322. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-193).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 139. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1118. A bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed sub-

ject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2214. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2215. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to better assist producers desiring to voluntarily transition into organic production systems; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2216. A bill to waive and repay certain debts relating to assistance provided to individuals and households; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 356. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Members of Congress should substitute teach at least 1 day per year in a public school to gain firsthand knowledge on how to address the prevailing challenges facing educators and how to remove obstacles to learning for students; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to apply whistleblower protections available to certain executive branch employees to legislative branch employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to support educational entities in fully implementing title IX and reducing and preventing sex discrimination in all areas of education.

S. 1570

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed

information on sexual orientation and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1730

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1730, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1978

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1978, a bill to delay the annual fee on health insurance providers until 2020 and to make such fee tax deductible.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2088

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2088, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of the Gold Star Installation Access Card to the surviving spouse, dependent children, and other next of kin of a member of the Armed Forces who dies while serving on certain active or reserve duty, to ensure that a remarried surviving spouse with dependent children of the deceased member remains eligible for installation benefits to which the surviving spouse was previously eligible, and for other purposes.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2125

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr.

KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to improve the State response to the opioid abuse crisis.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2152, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for assistance for victims of child pornography, and for other purposes.

S. 2159

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2159, a bill to require covered harassment and covered discrimination awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights for covered harassment and covered discrimination complaints, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 30

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to United States policy toward Tibet and that the treatment of the Tibetan people should be an important factor in the conduct of United States relations with the People's Republic of China.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 356—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD SUBSTITUTE TEACH AT LEAST 1 DAY PER YEAR IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO GAIN FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO ADDRESS THE PREVAILING CHALLENGES FACING EDUCATORS AND HOW TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO LEARNING FOR STUDENTS

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 356

Whereas teachers play a critical role in shaping the minds and lives of children;

Whereas there were 3,100,000 full-time public school teachers in 2016;

Whereas approximately 200,000 teachers leave the profession each year;

Whereas in the 114th Congress, there were more than 3 times as many Members of Congress that had backgrounds in public service or politics than Members of Congress that had backgrounds in education; and

Whereas Members of Congress should be on the ground in public schools to understand the challenges that educators and students face, including—

- (1) a growing shortage of teachers;
- (2) issues of teacher pay;
- (3) a lack of resources, in both urban and rural areas;
- (4) teacher preparedness;
- (5) chronic absenteeism among students;
- (6) poverty; and
- (7) parental involvement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes the contributions of teachers to the United States;
- (2) thanks teachers for their service; and
- (3) recommends that each Member of Congress spend at least 1 day per year serving as a substitute teacher in a public school.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, December 11, 2017, at 5:45 p.m. to conduct a business hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jessika Solleder, Truman Whitney, and Aaron Price, interns in my office, be granted floor privileges for the date of Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINTING—S. RES. 351

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 351 be star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD SUBSTITUTE TEACH AT LEAST 1 DAY PER YEAR IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate